

FREE
COPY

MAP OF MALAYSIA

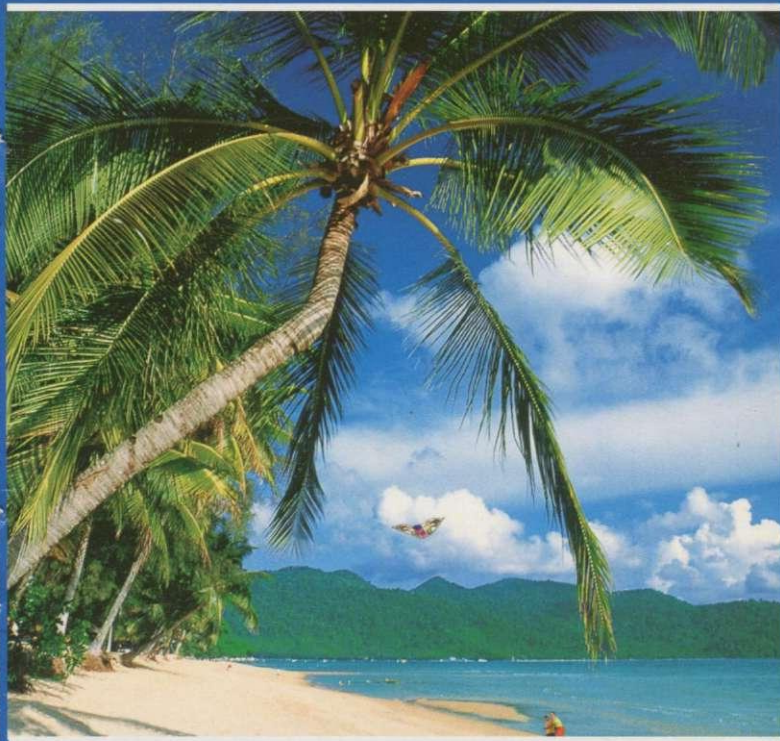


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MOM (English) / IH / PS
October 2007

(TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY)



Malaysia
Truly Asia

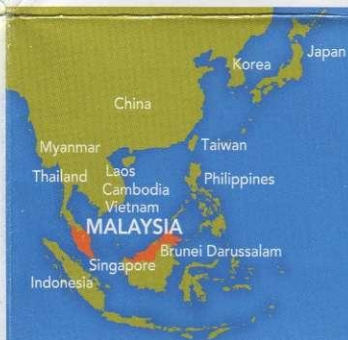
SELAMAT DATANG...Welcome To Malaysia

Malaysia offers a truly Asian experience. Discover the delightful fusion of three of Asia's oldest civilisations - Malay, Chinese and Indian. A potpourri enriched with the indigenous traditions of the KadazanDusuns, Ibans and other ethnic communities of Sabah and Sarawak.

Experience the country's alluring wonders - colourful festivals, stunning skyscrapers, charming heritage buildings, enchanting islands and beaches as well as ancient rainforests teeming with fascinating flora and fauna.

Meet the warm and friendly people and enjoy world-class facilities. Marvel at the bewildering range of shopping delights and savour mouth-watering delicacies. Bursting with colour, pulsating with life, Malaysia awaits you.





Malaysia *Truly Asia*

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PLACES OF INTEREST

PERLIS • This tiny northern state of Peninsular Malaysia shares borders with neighbouring Thailand. It is the departure point to the famous island resort of Langkawi. The town of Padang Besar is an important entry point by rail for visitors from the north. Among the attractions of the state are Gua Kelam (Dark Caves), Perlis Snake and Reptile Farm and the Wang Kelian State Park.



2



KEDAH • The 'Rice Bowl' state of Malaysia is characterised by a landscape of vast paddy fields and lush greenery. Alor Star, the administrative and commercial centre is the site of many well-preserved historical landmarks with Moorish, Thai and colonial influences. The international resort of Langkawi consists of 99 islands shrouded in fascinating myths and legends. Its breathtaking scenery, rustic ambience, enchanting marine life and spectacular limestone formations make it an ideal holiday destination. Langkawi's duty-free status offers attractive shopping opportunities.



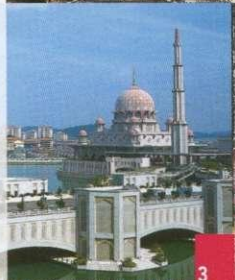
PENANG • The 'Pearl of the Orient' is famed for its lovely beaches, colourful history and rich potpourri of cultures. Georgetown, the bustling state capital and port city, combines the best of East and West as evident in its numerous heritage buildings. This food paradise tempts the palate with a mouth-watering array of local cuisine. The island is connected to the mainland by a vehicular ferry service and the magnificent Penang Bridge.

PERAK • Perak in its heyday was synonymous with the nation's flourishing tin mining industry. Its claim to fame today can be attributed to its charming tourist attractions. Alluring Pangkor Island is the location of the award-winning Pangkor Laut Resort. Ipoh, the state capital, and Taiping with its picturesque lake gardens, still retain a strong semblance of the British era. The royal town of Kuala Kangsar, Gua Tempurung's fascinating limestone formations and mysterious Kellie's Castle are other attractions.

KUALA LUMPUR • This vibrant capital of Malaysia had its origins as a tin mining outpost in the 1800s. The hub of commerce, politics, culture and education, KL's skyline is a striking contrast of ultra-modern structures and charming heritage buildings. The imposing Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest twin structures, is a major draw for most visitors. KL's fascinating sights, irresistible shopping, endless festivals, exciting nightlife and gastronomic delights make it an exciting holiday destination.



PUTRAJAYA • Situated 25km south of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya is the futuristic administrative capital of the nation. Hailed as an 'Intelligent Garden City', this model township is a proud symbol of Malaysia's aspiration to be a developed nation. The focal point here is Putra Square, the stately Prime Minister's Office and the aesthetically-pleasing Putrajaya Mosque. Another impressive feature is the uniquely designed bridges that span the various points of the sprawling Putrajaya Lake.

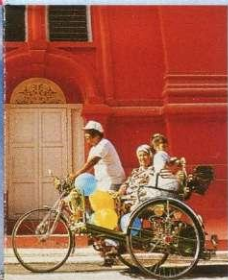


SELANGOR • Selangor is the main gateway for visitors to the country. Attractions in the state include the unique Kampung Kuantan Fireflies Park, the magnificent Batu Caves, fabulous theme parks and great shopping. An annual sporting highlight is the action-packed Formula One race held at Sepang International Circuit. Shah Alam, the state capital, is the site of the splendid Blue Mosque with the tallest minarets in the world.



NEGERI SEMBILAN • The pervasive influence of the Minangkabau culture is a distinct characteristic of the state. Its flourishing capital of Seremban has several interesting historical and cultural sites. Seri Menanti, a royal enclave, is home to Malaysia's largest traditional timber palace. Port Dickson is a popular weekend retreat with its long coastline and wide choice of resort accommodations. Homestays offer an authentic experience of the local 'kampung' or village lifestyle.

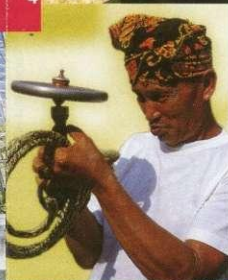




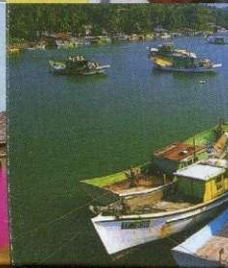
MELAKA • Its long history has made Melaka a veritable treasure trove of the past and a cultural melting pot. Tourists are inevitably drawn to its historical precinct, containing the well-preserved 17th century Dutch Stadhuis and the remains of the Portuguese A' Famosa. Of interest here are several museums, a replica of the Melaka Sultanate Palace and the Independence Memorial Building. The Baba and Nyonya Heritage Museum provides insights into this unique community. Nearby Ayer Keroh and A' Famosa Water Park provide numerous sightseeing spots and recreational activities.



JOHOR • Peninsular Malaysia's southern gateway state offers tropical island escapades, recreational forests, waterfalls, historic spots and superb golfing. The islands of Sibul, Rawa, Besar and Pemanggil in the South China Sea beckon with a range of water sports and underwater attractions. Trek into the pristine Endau-Rompin National Park for a refreshing jungle adventure. Johor Bahru is a popular weekend shopping and recreational spot for neighbouring Singapore. Another highlight is the lively and intriguing cultural performances in the state.



KELANTAN • Kelantan's appeal lies in its laid-back lifestyle, tranquil countryside scenes, rustic fishing villages and a wealth of cultural activities. Traditional pastimes such as giant kite-flying, top-spinning competitions and silat, the Malay art of self-defence are among the interesting sights. Kelantanese are gifted craftsmen and many cottage industries producing silverware, textiles, kites and brass work can be found in Kota Bharu, the state capital.



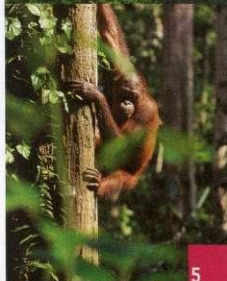
TERENGGANU • Terengganu is blessed with captivating island retreats of soft white sand, crystal-clear waters and prolific marine life. The islands of Redang and Perhentian attract lovers of the sun and sea from around the world. Boat-building and traditional handicraft activities such as batik-painting and songket-weaving can be observed around Kuala Terengganu, the main town. Tasik Kenyir, the largest man-made lake in Southeast Asia, is a haven for freshwater fishing and eco-adventures.

PAHANG • The largest state in Peninsular Malaysia is the location of Taman Negara, Malaysia's premier national park as well as the peninsula's highest peak, Gunung Tahan. The popular hill resorts of Genting Highlands, Cameron Highlands, Bukit Tinggi and Fraser's Hill are major tourist attractions here. Cherating is the site of Asia's first Club Mediterranean and off the state's coastline is the island gem of Tioman, voted as one of the most beautiful islands in the world.

SABAH • Sabah is a paradise for nature lovers. Major attractions here are Mount Kinabalu located in the Kinabalu National Park, a world heritage site. Its cluster of islands, Tunku Abdul Rahman Park and Sipadan, a world-class diving destination, offer a wealth of eco-treasures. The state capital of Kota Kinabalu is the gateway to Sabah's many tourist spots. The 32 ethnic groups in the state, such as the KadazanDusun, Murut and Bajau make up the colourful tapestry of Sabah's culture.

SARAWAK • Situated on the northwestern coast of Borneo, the 'Land of the Hornbills' beckons visitors with its pristine rainforest and the diverse lifestyles of its indigenous people. The magnificent Mulu Caves, Sarawak Cultural Village and the state's national parks rank among its major attractions. Go on a river cruise adventure to visit the numerous ethnic groups with their colourful customs and traditions.

LABUAN • Located off the west coast of Sabah, Labuan is a paradise for wreck diving and international deep sea fishing. The annual Labuan International Sea Challenge is an exciting water sports event for enthusiasts. The island is the site of several World War II memorials.

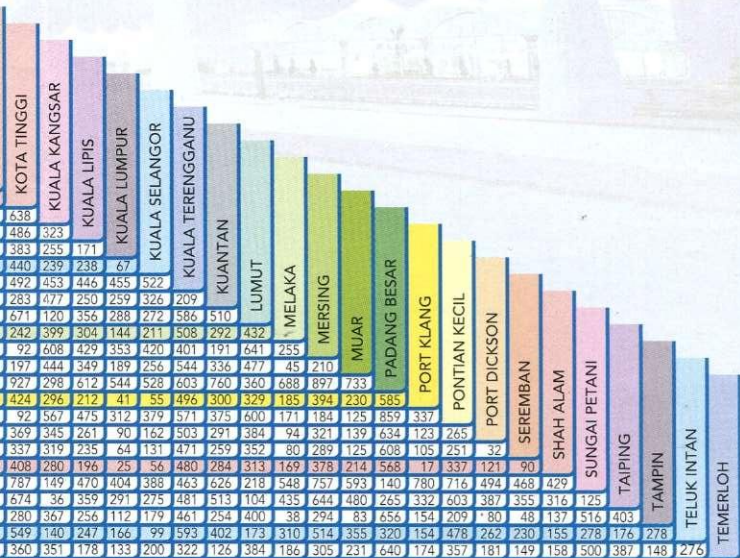




DISTANCE CHART Approximate Distances Between Major Towns

ALOR STAR	BATU PAHAT	BUKIT FRASER	BUKIT IBAM	BUKIT KAYU HITAM	BUTTERWORTH	DABONG	DESARU	DUNGUN	GEMAS	GRIK	GUA MUSANG	IPOH	JELI	JOHOR BAHRU	KAJANG	KANGAR	KLANG	KOTA BHARU	KOTA TINGGI	KUALA KANGSAR	KUALA LIPIS	KUALA LUMPUR
704	338	324	748		350																	
443	219																					
700	752	491	748																			
48	608	350	607	141																		
93	795	488	595	397	350																	
349	194	535	291	946	805	795																
898	433	381	252	647	576	356	464															
599	153	267	112	678	537	656	283	328														
630	598	340	597	224	154	177	795	427	527													
176	521	222	436	557	491	266	675	374	390	337												
504	444	186	443	305	164	331	641	581	373	154	491											
257	734	434	542	344	273	53	767	303	603	124	213	278										
296	126	467	281	878	737	799	94	456	215	727	605	573	746									
830	221	121	217	532	391	578	415	412	144	381	312	227	525	347								
484	746	488	745	93	138	394	943	644	660	221	554	302	341	875	529							
495	272	132	271	541	400	567	469	423	201	392	323	236	514	401	55	507						
409	705	406	485	457	386	166	697	246	574	237	184	391	113	689	496	454	507					
848	144	485	239	893	752	770	52	414	233	742	623	588	717	41	380	890	416	660				
207	494	236	493	255	114	281	691	531	423	104	441	50	228	623	277	252	288	341	638			
530	402	103	317	578	437	385	538	381	271	427	119	273	331	468	193	575	204	303	486	323		
462	239	99	238	510	369	556	436	390	168	359	290	205	503	368	22	507	33	474	383	255	171	
446	306	166	305	494	352	520	503	457	235	343	357	189	467	435	89	491	47	541	440	239	238	67
521	500	453	317	569	498	278	529	78	405	349	296	503	225	521	477	566	488	168	492	453	446	455
684	304	253	121	726	591	487	333	131	197	558	369	427	434	325	281	729	292	371	283	477	250	259
278	527	269	526	336	170	414	724	639	454	216	553	83	340	656	310	320	319	453	671	120	356	288
606	98	243	206	654	513	689	292	422	94	503	423	349	636	224	123	651	177	607	242	399	304	144
815	158	436	151	863	722	679	142	328	247	712	548	558	625	134	329	860	386	568	92	608	429	353
651	53	288	259	694	558	734	247	467	139	548	468	394	681	179	168	696	222	652	197	444	349	189
82	783	525	782	130	175	431	980	681	712	258	586	339	379	912	566	37	540	491	927	298	612	544
503	280	140	279	551	401	597	477	431	209	400	331	246	544	409	83	548	8	515	424	296	212	41
777	73	411	292	825	681	849	142	506	226	671	594	517	796	61	294	819	345	739	92	567	475	312
552	192	189	206	600	459	646	404	420	133	449	380	295	593	318	75	603	115	564	369	345	261	90
526	172	163	174	574	433	620	372	388	101	423	354	269	566	304	43	571	97	538	337	319	235	64
486	264	124	263	534	394	581	461	415	193	384	315	230	528	393	47	532	9	499	408	280	196	25
58	643	386	642	106	35	291	839	540	572	118	451	199	238	772	426	103	437	351	787	149	470	404
183	530	272	529	321	90	309	727	559	454	132	469	86	256	659	313	228	322	369	674	36	359	291
574	136	211	168	622	481	641	332	384	53	471	385	317	598	262	91	619	145	569	280	367	256	112
347	405	162	404	395	254	421	602	530	334	244	456	90	368	533	188	392	146	481	549	140	247	166
558	280	131	193	606	465	549	412	255	127	455	297	301	510	342	155	603	167	481	360	351	178	133

Major Towns In Kilometres



FAST FACTS

COUNTRY The Federation of Malaysia comprises of Peninsular Malaysia and the states of Sabah and Sarawak in Borneo.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION Located between 2 and 7 degrees north of the Equator, Peninsular Malaysia is separated from the states of Sabah and Sarawak by the South China Sea. To the north of Peninsular Malaysia is Thailand while its southern neighbour is Singapore. Sabah and Sarawak are bounded by Indonesia while Sarawak also shares a border with Brunei.

AREA 329,758 sq km

POPULATION 25 million

CAPITAL Kuala Lumpur (KL)

PEOPLE Malays make up about 57% of the population and are the predominant group with Chinese, Indians and other ethnic groups making up the rest.

LANGUAGE Bahasa Melayu (Malay) is the national language but English is widely spoken. Malaysians also speak various languages and dialects.

RELIGION Islam is the official religion but all other religions are practised freely.

GOVERNMENT A parliamentary democracy with a bicameral legislative system. The Head of State is the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Head of Government is the Prime Minister.

CLIMATE Malaysia has a tropical climate and the weather is warm all year round. Temperatures range from 21°C to 32°C and the annual rainfall varies from 2,000mm to 2,500mm.

HISTORY AND CULTURE Apart from the local Malays and the native groups, immigrants from China, India, Indonesia and other parts of the world have all contributed to the multiracial composition of its population. Its interesting cultural diversity can be largely attributed to the country's long and ongoing interaction with the outside world and colonial rule by

the Portuguese, Dutch and the British. The evolution of the country into a cultural melting pot is evident in the unique blend of religions, socio-cultural activities, traditions, languages and food. The country achieved independence on August 31, 1957 as the Federation of Malaya and subsequently with the entry of Sabah and Sarawak in 1963, Malaysia was formed.

MAJOR HOLIDAYS New Year's Day (January)* • Federal Territory Day (February)** • Chinese New Year (February)* • Labour Day (May)* • Wesak Day (May)* • King's Birthday (June)* • National Day (August)* • Deepavali (November)# • Hari Raya Aidilfitri (November)* • Christmas (December)*. Note (*) - National Holidays • (**) KL, Labuan & Putrajaya only • (#) - Except Sarawak & Labuan.

ECONOMIC PROFILE Manufacturing constitutes the largest component of Malaysia's economy while tourism and primary commodities such as petroleum, palm oil, natural rubber and timber are major contributors.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS Visitors must be in possession of a valid passport or travel document with a minimum validity of six months beyond the intended visiting period. Citizens of most countries do not require visas for social or business visits. For further information, please visit or call the nearest Malaysian diplomatic mission or Tourism Malaysia office.

CURRENCY The unit of currency is the Malaysian Ringgit, which is indicated as RM. Foreign currencies can be converted at banks and money changers. All travellers, both residents and non-residents, are required to complete the Traveller's Declaration Form (TDF). The TDF has a blue section for residents and white section for non-residents.

Residents are only required to declare the exact amount of Ringgit carried when they enter or leave the country if the amount is in excess of RM1,000. They are also required to declare the exact amount in foreign currency, including traveller's cheques carried, when they leave the country if the amount exceeds the equivalent of RM10,000. Residents do not have to declare foreign currency, including traveller's cheques carried when they re-enter the country. Non-residents are

required to declare the exact amount of foreign currency carried when they enter or leave the country only if the amount exceeds the equivalent of USD 2,500.00.

BANKING HOURS Most states: Mon - Fri: 9.30am - 4.00pm • Sat: 9.30am - 12.00noon • Sun: Closed • Kedah, Kelantan & Terengganu: Sat - Wed: 9.30am - 4.00pm • Thur: 9.30am - 12.00noon • Fri: Closed.

POST OFFICES Open from 8.00am to 5.00pm daily except on Sundays and public holidays. In Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu post offices are closed on Fridays and public holidays.

TIME Eight hours ahead of GMT and 16 hours ahead of U.S. Pacific Standard Time.

ELECTRICITY Voltage is 220-240 volts AC at 50 cycles per second.

MEASUREMENT SYSTEM Malaysia follows the metric system.

TELEPHONE Local calls can be made from public phones using coins or prepaid cards. International calls can be made from public phones with phone card facilities or at any Telekom offices.

GETTING THERE The main gateway to Malaysia is through the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang, which is located approximately 50 kilometres south of Kuala Lumpur. Other major international airports that serve as entry points are located in Penang, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, Langkawi and Johor. The main entry point by sea is at Port Klang, about 50 kilometres away from KL. Malaysia is also accessible by road and rail from Singapore and Thailand.

GETTING AROUND Malaysia has excellent domestic air links and a well-developed and efficient public transportation system served by buses, taxis as well as trains.

ACCOMMODATION Malaysia has a wide range of accommodation with competitive rates. International standard, mid-range and budget hotels, youth hostels and timeshare apartments are among of the types of accommodation available.

DO'S & DON'TS When visiting Malaysia, visitors should observe local customs and practices. Some common courtesies and customs are as follows :

- Although handshakes generally suffice for both men and women, some Muslim ladies may acknowledge an introduction to a gentleman with a nod of her head and smile. The traditional Malay greeting or *salam* resembles a handshake with both hands but without the grasp. The man offers both hands, lightly touches his friend's outstretched hands, then brings his hands to his chest.
- It is polite to call before visiting a home.
- Shoes must always be removed when entering a home.
- Drinks are generally offered to guests. It would be polite to accept.
- The right hand is always used when eating with one's hand or when giving and receiving objects.
- The right forefinger is not used to point at places, objects or persons. Instead, the thumb of the right hand, with the four fingers folded under, is the preferred usage.
- Shoes must be removed when entering places of worship such as mosques and temples. Mosques provide robes and scarves for female visitors. Taking photographs at places of worship is usually permitted but always ask for permission first.
- The country's large Muslim population does not drink alcohol.

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